



ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

G.R.S.M. COURSE

in Performance, History and Music Techniques

qualifying for the Diploma

GRADUATE OF

THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC

(London)

September 1973

ADVANCED COURSES

Advanced Courses may be taken by those R.A.M. Students who have satisfactorily completed their initial three-year Course, whether Performers' Course, or G.R.S.M. Course, or B.Mus. Course.

Although the basic Course is at present three years in duration, it is the view of the Academy that at least one year's Advanced Course should be regarded as the normal culmination of a performer's training so that a four-year course should be the normal expectation of a student of high standard. The fourth year should not be thought of as an 'extra' year; it is the necessary opportunity to consolidate and refine the basic initial training. An Advanced Student will be expected to present himself for Division V in the Annual Examinations and to proceed to the Recital or Orchestral Diploma. This may require one or two years of study.

Similar Courses are also available to post-graduate students from other institutions who have taken degrees in music, or diplomas of comparable status. For post-graduate students who have taken their University degree in subjects other than music, the full, normal, Performers' Course will be available, either to its full length, or on a one- or two-year basis. In exceptional cases students possessing non-musical degrees, but of advanced standard as performers can be accepted in the Advanced Course.

An Advanced Student has considerable opportunity to use his own initiative in deciding his curriculum, and will be guided by his Principal Study Professor and his personal Tutor. He will also be directed to attend such classes, rehearsals and concerts as may be decided by the Principal. Students who show particular interest in the academic aspect of music are encouraged to continue with such studies, but an Advanced Student is always expected to have gained sufficient theoretical knowledge to be able to concentrate on the technique of his principal instrument and to acquire the widest possible knowledge of its musical repertoire.

An Advanced Student is expected to have the capacity (and requires the opportunity) for extreme concentration, for lengthy periods, on the preparation of his work. To assist him to apply the most critical standards, he will receive one and a half hours individual tuition per week from his Principal Study Professor. He may be allocated to either the Symphony Orchestra or the Chamber Orchestra for up to six hours' orchestral experience per week. He will also be given every opportunity to become a member of an established Chamber Ensemble; a string quartet, or a group involving pianoforte and/or wind and/or singers. Several professors, including Mr. Sidney Griller, Mr. Wilfrid Parry and Mr. Gwynne Edwards, regularly spend many hours per week coaching ensemble classes, and a number of other professors take part in this work, as may be required. This coaching is aimed at preparing students to appear either at our twice-weekly internal concerts (an essential aspect of studentship), or for recitals given to Music Clubs

and other outside organisations, such as schools and hospitals; platform experience is regarded as extremely important. It should also be remembered that students will be required to do at least four to six hours' individual practice **per day**, and it is expected their enthusiasm will lead them to seek opportunities for practising and gaining experience wherever the chance may be found.

Singers also have special attention: the Opera Class offers them a chance to take part in two fully staged productions each year and in the Opera Workshop. They, too, have ample opportunities to appear on the Concert platform; there are several choral concerts each year and frequent orchestral concerts, at which singers may be selected to perform with full orchestra, with or without a chorus.

Every student has the invaluable opportunity of rehearsing, as the soloist, with an orchestra under eminent conductors.

The Academy possesses a fine working Library from which students may borrow copies and parts of virtually every composition they are likely to need. The Manson Library contains many of the most avant-garde compositions.

Seminars and Master Classes are frequently held by artists and teachers of international reputation, and these are considered particularly suitable for students of Advanced standard, who are expected to attend.

There are numerous prizes for which Advanced Students are eligible to enter, some of which are of considerable value and prestige. These are judged by eminent musicians and some are competed for publicly, as is the Recital Diploma. Such competitions afford invaluable opportunities to students who, at the outset of their professional lives, so urgently need a platform from which to gain the ear, not only of the public, but also of musicians of stature and influence, who may be able to help them forward in their careers.

Christopher Regan
Director of Studies

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